

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Office Action of February 23, 2006. The period of response has been extended by one (1) month by the enclosed Petition for Extension of Time. In that Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-11. Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beck, Jr. et al. (5,632,748).

Claims 1, 5 and 6 were amended to correct informalities.

The rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beck, Jr. et al. (5,632,748) is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' present invention is directed toward a novel method of performing an ACL reconstruction surgical procedure. Beck, Jr. et al., either alone or in combination with any other reference, do not suggest or disclose Applicants' novel method. The Examiner has pointed to no teaching or reference that speaks to the desirability of combining the reference cited by the Examiner (i.e., Beck, Jr. et al.) with any other disclosure. The Examiner has not pointed to a combination of references that would produce Applicants' claimed invention. Indeed, Beck et al. do not disclose or suggest Applicants' novel ACL reconstruction method using Applicants' interference screw, wherein the method has surprising and unexpected results and benefits to the patient. Applicants' invention teaches away from Beck, Jr. et al. by providing a composite interference screw containing biodegradable polymers in combination with bioceramics. As recited in the Applicants' Specification and examples, the Applicants' novel method has, surprisingly and unexpectedly, improved bioabsorption and bone replacement, improved tissue in-growth and minimized tissue trauma.

Therefore, on the basis of the foregoing discussion, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection and allow the claims or record.

Respectfully submitted,

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